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# UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **USS John C. Stennis Overnight Embark Opportunity**

**PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII** – Media are invited to spend the night aboard the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) as it approaches Hawaii to support the 2004 Rim of the Pacific multi-national exercise July 27. Seven nations will participate in the region's largest international maritime exercise scheduled June 29 through July 27 in the waters around the Hawaiian Islands.

This year's exercise is the 19th in a series of RIMPAC exercises conducted periodically since 1971. More than 40 ships, 7 submarines, 100 aircraft and almost 18,000 Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Soldiers and Coastguardsmen will participate in RIMPAC training operations this summer. U.S. Navy warships, minesweepers, submarines, Marines and aircraft squadrons from San Diego and Pearl Harbor will participate in the exercise.

RIMPAC 2004 brings together maritime forces from six Pacific Rim nations (Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Republic of Korea, and the United States) along with the United Kingdom. Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force units will participate in bi-lateral training with U.S. units.

RIMPAC will enhance the tactical proficiency of participating units in a wide array of combined operations at sea. By enhancing interoperability, RIMPAC helps promote stability in the Pacific Rim region to the benefit of all participating nations. This year's exercise participants include a wide variety of surface combatant ships, submarines, tactical aircraft, and amphibious forces. The exercise includes training in tactical proficiency, non-combatant evacuation operations, amphibious assault, anti-submarine warfare and humanitarian assistance. Individual units remain under operational control of their respective national commanders throughout the exercise.

Key training objectives for RIMPAC 2004 include enhanced command and control structure among the exercise participants, LINK connectivity, maintenance of a common operational picture, coordination of surface, subsurface and air assets in a multi-submarine and multi-threat environment, and air defense, including standardized reporting and detection to engage.

USS John C. Stennis' participation in RIMPAC 2004 is part of an overall demonstration of the U.S. Navy's ability to simultaneously deploy seven Carrier Strike Groups as part of SUMMER PULSE 2004. As part of the Chief of Naval Operations' Fleet Response Plan, the

U.S. Navy is demonstrating its capability to surge Naval forces to respond to crises around the world.

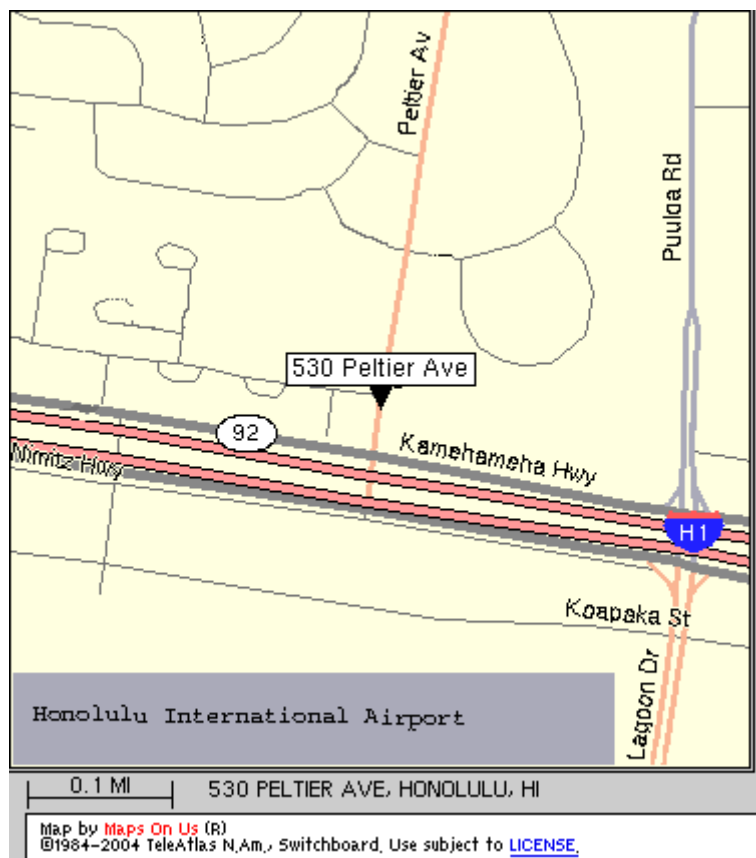
A RIMPAC web site containing details regarding exercise activities and imagery from exercise operations will be active during the exercise at [www.cpf.navy.mil/rimpac2004/](http://www.cpf.navy.mil/rimpac2004/).

**MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:** Media will have an opportunity to fly out to STENNIS aboard the C-2 Greyhound Carrier Onboard Delivery aircraft. Once on the ship, media will be given the opportunity to tour the ship and observe underway operations. Seats aboard the COD aircraft are limited, so media will be accommodated on a first-come, first serve basis.

Interested media need to contact Mr. Jon Yoshishige or Lt. Dave Benham at U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs no later than 3 p.m., Wednesday, June 25 to ensure one of the TEN seats on the COD aircraft.

Media will meet Lt. Benham at the Combined Information Bureau (CIB), located at 530 Peltier Ave (see map and directions below) on June 27, time TBA. From there media will be escorted to Hickam Air Force Base to board the aircraft. While on board STENNIS, media will stay overnight in military berthing. At the conclusion of the embark on June 28, media will fly back to Hickam AFB aboard the COD aircraft (time TBA), and transportation from Hickam back to the CIB will be provided.

**RIMPAC 2004 Combined Information Bureau**  
Naval Reserve Center Honolulu  
530 Peltier Avenue  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819



**Directions: From Nimitz Boulevard turn north on to Peltier Avenue. The Honolulu Naval Reserve Center will be on your left.**

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